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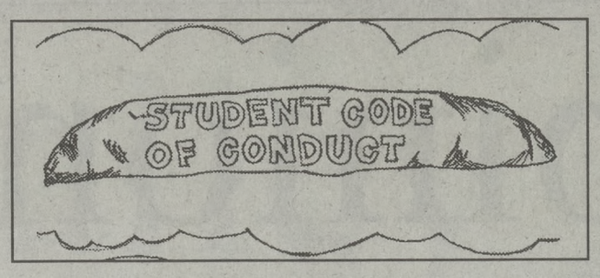
Judo class

see page 4



"Up in smoke"

see page 2

Limping home

see page 8

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The Valley Star

VOLUME 57, ISSUE NO. 7 | MAY 15, 2002 | LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Parking Ticket Money At Work

BY STERLING ANDREWS
STAR REPORTER

You see the white polo shirt, the clipboard, the stern hand scribbling away right in front of your car. Your stomach drops to the asphalt; another parking ticket? You bought your parking pass (it usually hangs from your rear view mirror) and you follow directions: remove before vehicle is in motion. You just, well, forgot to replace it when your vehicle wasn't in motion. It's okay; you're not alone.

Nearly $50,000 in parking tickets have been issued since the start of the spring semester, mainly for permits "not displayed as required." If your permit isn't visible through your windshield, whether it's hanging from the mirror or on your dashboard, you'll be dishing out 30 bucks to LAVC.

So? You can just trot down to the campus police office, flash that receipt proving you bought a parking pass and they'll forget about the whole thing, right? Unfortunately for some repeat parking offenders, that only works once.

"We know this is expensive," said Nora Gellar, senior office assistant for the campus police. "We try to help the students. If it's the first time (a student has gotten a ticket) and they have their receipt, they pay a $10 processing fee and that's it. But there are some people who get 12 or 13 tickets in one semester."

Processing fee? Sure, it's a lot cheaper than paying the whole ticket, but why should students pay $10 for a cadet to watch them fill out a half-page form? Here's how it works:

When a student mails a payment to the address on the back of the ticket, a citation service center in Torrance called Phoenix Group receives and processes the payment, then, at the end of the month, sends the money back to Valley College – minus taxes, surcharges, and a monthly service fee. Even if a ticket is contested, Phoenix Group still charges a fee for that ticket.

But what happens to the money once it comes back? According to Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administration, funds received from Phoenix Group – along with profits from parking pass sales – go into an account called Program 145, known as the "parking lot fund." The fund pays the salaries of student Cadet workers as well as any necessary parking lot repairs.

This year's budget for the Program 145 account was estimated at $462,000. Roughly 25 percent of the money will go to the cadets and the rest will be spent on the school's parking lots, according to Jacobsmeyer. But do we

See 'PARKING TICKETS'

STAR PHOTO/DANIEL COHEN.

A parking ticket sits on the windshield of a car located in Lot D at Valley College. Nearly $50,000 in parking tickets have been issued since the start of the spring semester, mainly for permits "not displayed as required."

Student Code a Mystery

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

The code of conduct of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is only one line: "I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor associate with those who do." At Valley College, clearly a much less rigidly disciplined institution, the code of conduct is quite a bit more detailed, and perhaps consequently, far more difficult to enforce.

"At all costs, we will maintain the academic integrity of this institution and ensure that this is a drug-free campus," says Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, whose responsibility it is to ensure that the code is enforced.

Since the publication of a recent edition of the Valley Star with a front-page article regarding marijuana usage on campus, communications between Campus authorities and administration has been under scrutiny. According to Delahoussaye, campus administration is always trying to communicate the code of conduct to the students in various ways, though they may be only mildly successful.

Only a small percentage of students are knowledgeable of the code of conduct. Of 50 students recently surveyed, only nine were aware of the existence of the code—and none were conscious of any of the specifics, the closest response being, "isn't there

See 'CONDUCT' on p. 6

Campus Officials Call for Ticket Audit

BY STERLING ANDREWS
STAR REPORTER

Administrative officials will audit the parking ticket citation center employed by Los Angles Valley College to ensure proper processing, said school officials.

Campus authorities are currently collecting information regarding the citation processing center called Phoenix Group in order to begin a "test audit," according to Vice President of Administration Tom Jacobsmeyer.

"Some questions have been

See 'JUMP' on p. #

Renovation Plans Show Progress

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

The first major steps of the upcoming campus renovations will be seen in four to six weeks with demolition of the bungalow restroom and the digging of trenches from the Campus Center to the North Gym, according to Fred Parker, project director of the URS Corporation.

At a town hall meeting held in the fireside room in the campus center recently, Parker and other members of his team updated faculty and staff as to their progress regarding the Proposition A master plan, as well as what's on the agenda for the near future.

"I'm anxious to see something in the ground," said Parker. "It will be fun to see the bungalow restrooms down and we will be seeing progress very soon."

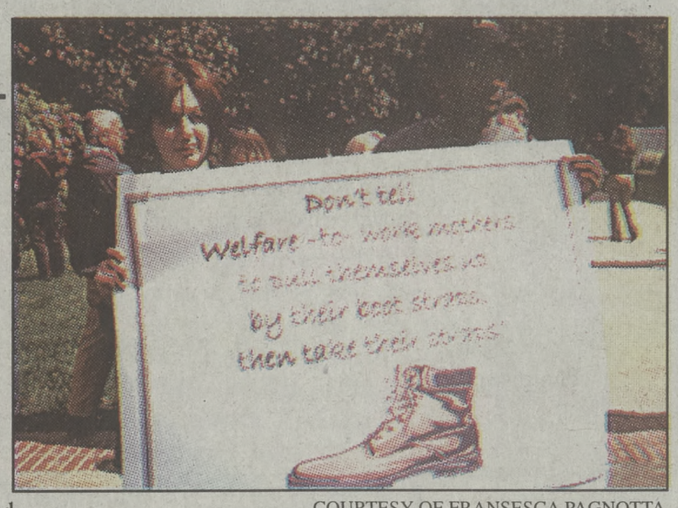
Parker said that the trenches will be used for campus utilities such as plumbing and electricity, so not to disrupt current operations. However, a campus wide utility survey must be done to assess the underground utility landscape of the school, making sure not to run into any data lines or electrical channels.

New facilities for financial aid and computer science are also on the agenda, and temporary "swing space" facilities will be made for them. Parker said that the actual relocation will be done over a weekend so as to cause as little interference as possible for the staff of those departments. "There's a lot of coordination involved," said Parker. An Environmental Impact Report must be completed and approved by the Board of Trustees before any sub-

See 'RENOVATION' on p. 5

Students Head to Sacramento for CalWORKS Funds

BYSERENA DANIELS
STAR REPORTER



COURTESY OF FRANSESCA PAGNOTTA

Passesrby admired a sign held by Tyrone Cain and Arian Sherry Razavi.

Community College Day was filled with enlightenment not only for the students who flew up to Sacramento but also for members of the California State Assembly, who learned the dangers of cutting the current Cal WORKS budget.

More than a dozen students and faculty from Valley College attended Community College Day recently to rally against Gov. Gray Davis' proposal to cut more than 70 percent of the Cal Works budget. This would leave it at around $9 million, not enough to keep the bare necessities of the program going, said Lynne Brower, Valley's Cal WORKS director.

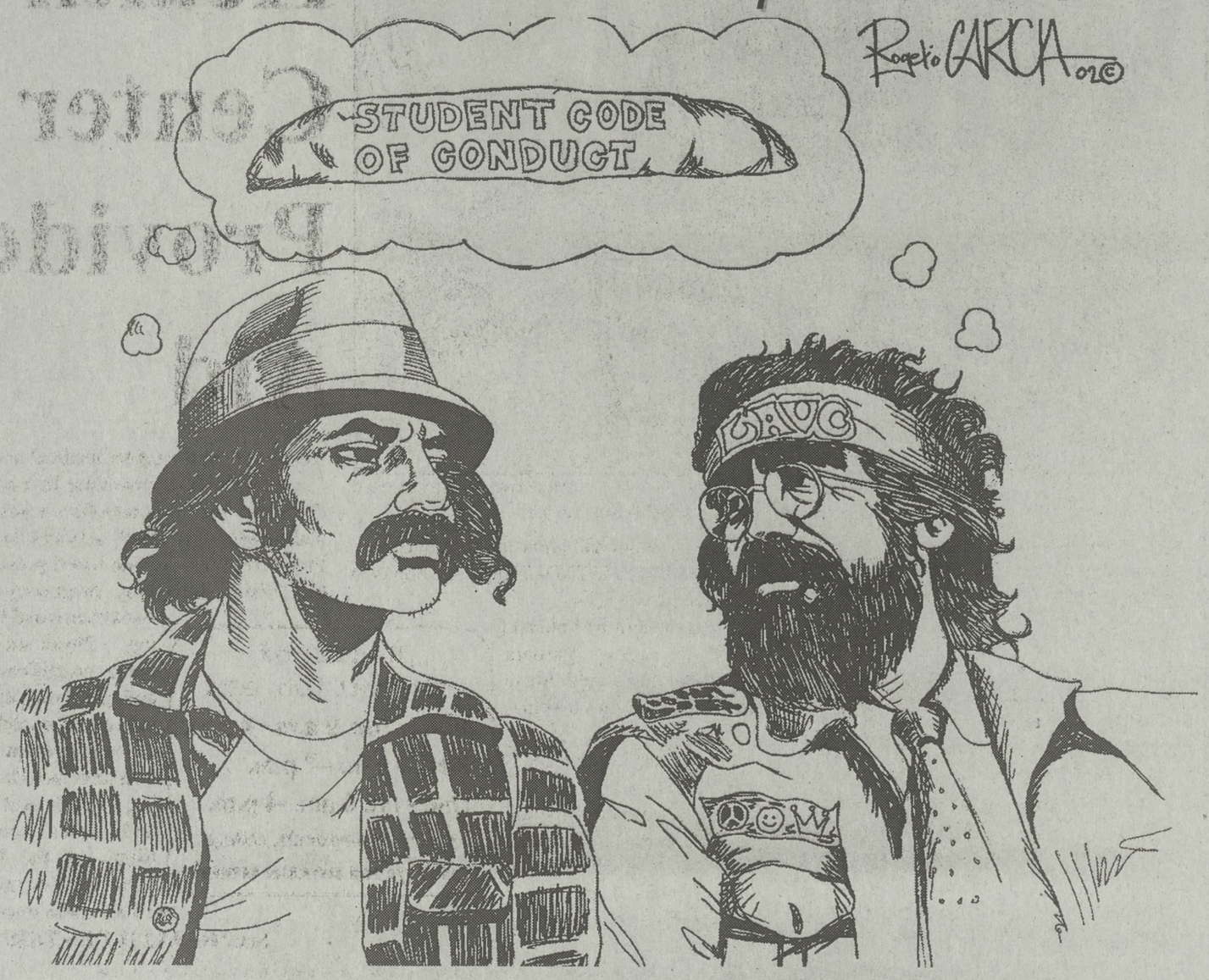
See 'SACRAMENO' on p. 6

STAR PHOTO/SUSIE SPECK MAYOR

Art student at pottery wheel as part of the many classes the art department offers.

Opinion

Student Code of Conduct "Up in Smoke"



letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

For the record, it is a mistake to portray Valley as a haven for marijuana users who only get a slap on the wrist when caught without any additional consequences, or to lead readers to believe that a Cheech and Chong type atmosphere exists on campus where marijuana use is "high" among our 18,000 students.

Good investigative journalism requires that any newspaper article reflect the full reality of a situation, and not resort to headlines whose sole purpose is for shock value. What the writer failed to find out is that any student caught smoking marijuana on campus will be immediately arrested, face criminal charges, and disciplinary action for violating the student code of conduct.

The campus disciplinary action includes suspension for a minimum of one year and/or expulsion from the Los Angeles Community College District. Therefore, I would appreciate the Valley Star informing students that if they willfully violate the district's anti-drug policy by smoking marijuana on campus, they will no longer remain a student at Valley College, and you can quote me on that!

Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services

The Valley Star recently received a letter from Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, in which she attacks our reporting skills and questions our journalistic integrity. Perhaps we are mistaken, but from the tone of her letter we believe that Ms. Delahoussaye did not read the complete article, "Marijuana Use High at Valley" (May 1). Therefore, at the request of Ms. Delahoussaye, we are printing her letter along with a few of our own notes:

(Delahoussaye) For the record, it is a mistake to portray Valley as a haven for marijuana users who only get a slap on the wrist when caught without additional consequences...

First of all, Ms. Delahoussaye's statement is highly open to interpretation. The article states that first time offenders are arrested and receive a citation while multiple offenders recieve a jail sentence. Many people would not consider these penalties to be a slap on the wrist.

(Delahoussaye) ...or to lead readers to believe that a Cheech and Chong type atmosphere exists on a campus where marijuana use is "high" among 18,000 students.

Certainly a creative use of metaphor. Yet when the head of campus security says he gets "a lot of calls" and students say they "see it all the time," we consider that to be a high use of narcotics on campus.

(Delahoussaye) Good investigative journalism requires that any newspaper article accurately reflect the full reality of a situation...

Ms. Delahoussaye has no right to lecture us on responsibilities. The writer of the article, Ben Jauron, tried to communicate with Delahoussaye personally at least twice by leaving messages with her secretary; both times she was "too busy" to be interviewed for the story. Had she had a high opinion of the subject, she should have returned our calls.

(Delahoussaye)...and to resort to headlines whose soul purpose is for shock value.

As has been explained, the headline reflects the fact that marijuana use is high at Valley College. It is not an assumption. The information was gathered from reliable sources.

(Delahoussaye) What the writer failed to find out is that any student caught smoking marijuana on campus will be immediately arrested, face criminal charges and disciplinary action for violating the student code of conduct.

It must be said that campus security and administration need to work on their communication skills because both seem to have different methods of handling a situation involving drug use on campus. Secondly, Delahoussaye wrote that anyone caught using drugs will be "immediately arrested." Arrested by whom? According to the campus Sheriff Randy Tuinstra, only multiple offenders will be arrested. Everyone else receives a citation.

(Delahoussaye) The campus disciplinary action includes suspension for a minimum of one year and/or expulsion from the Los Angeles Community College District.

Pardon our ignorance, but when we reviewed the student code of conduct in the class schedule, at the bottom of the second paragraph, it clearly states: "College authorities will determine which type of penalty is appropriate" for violation of the code. Does it specify in a different location what the precise penalties are for violations? We would honestly like to know where Ms. Delahoussaye's own penalties are located on the student code of conduct.

(Delahoussaye) Therefore, I would appreciate the Valley Star informing students that if they willfully violate the district's anti-drug policy by smoking marijuana on campus, they will no longer remain a student at Valley College, and you can quote me on that!

I hope Ms. Delahoussaye is now satisfied.

The Valley Star

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CampusView

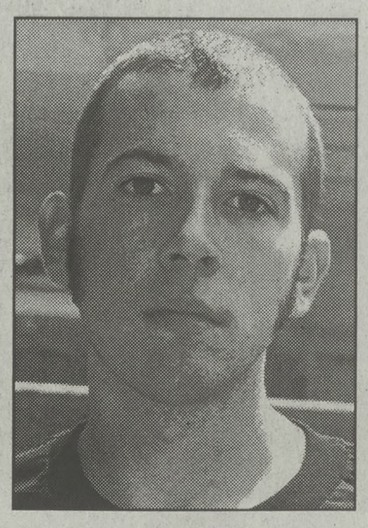
Are you aware of the student code of conduct? Should it be more visible?

BY LAUREN RUDSER
STAR REPORTER

STAR PHOTOS/LAUREN RUDSER

"No, I don't know what it is. Where do I find it?"

Cecilia Gonzalez
Business

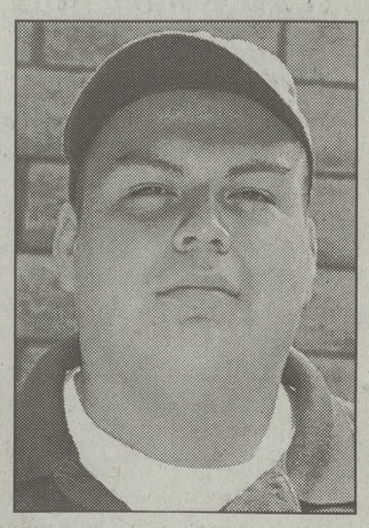


"What is it? I was completely unaware of it."

Alex Dash
Photograph

"No, I'm not aware of it. Maybe it should be more visible. I don't see why not.

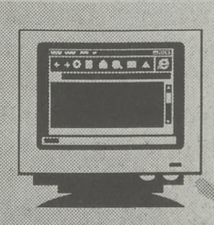
Stacy Argueta
Undeclared



"No, and it should not be made more visible."

Geo Orantes
Chemistry

Write a letter to the editor
StareditorsLAVC@hotmail.com
Please include your name and telephone number
Letter may be edited. Deadline: Friday 4:30 p.m.



Want more stories and photos? It's all just one click away!

www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Life

CAMPUS SCENE

Career/Transfer Center
The Career Transfer Center is open to all Valley College students wishing to either transfer to a four-year university or change their career. Hours: Mon. and Tue. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. in administration 126. For more information call (818) 947-2646

The Writing Center
Free tutoring for all LAVC students in Humanities 100 and 102. For more information call (818) 947-2810

LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers
Jennifer Kelly, Conductor
Thurs. May 16, 11:30 a.m.
Music Recital Hall

Scholarship Awards Dinner
Thurs. May 16, 4:30 p.m.
Monarch Hall

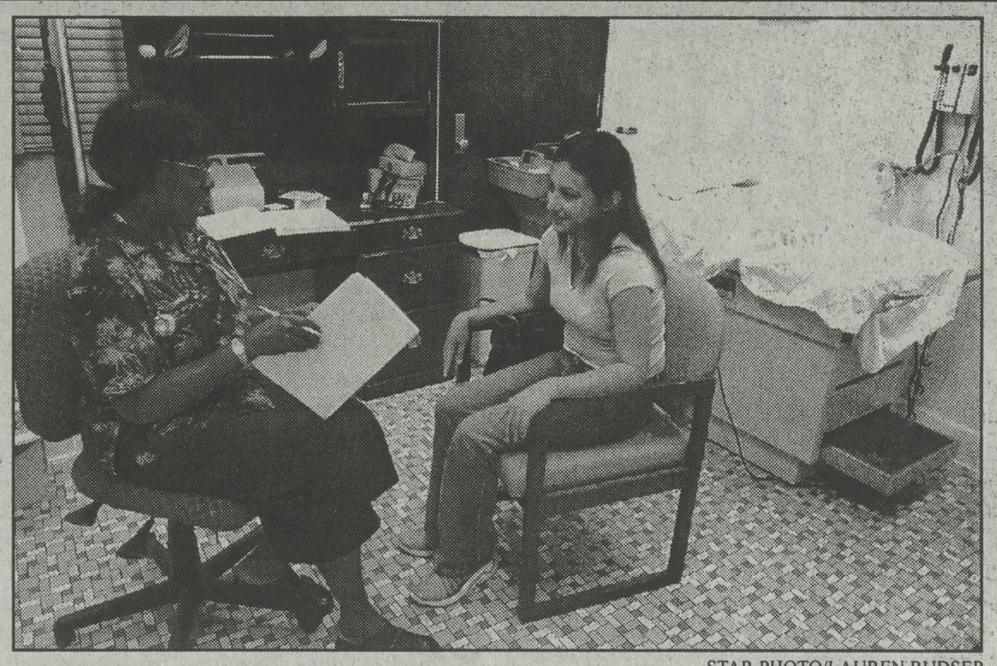
LAVC Guitar Ensemble
Robert Mayeur, Director
Fri., May 17, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
***Admission charge**

LAVC Wind Ensemble: Concert on the Green
Michael Mertens, Conductor
Sunday, May 18, 5 p.m.
Music Building Patio

Pinning Ceremony for Graduating Nursing Students
Wed. May 22, 6:30 p.m.
Monarch Hall

LAVC Jazz Ensemble
Woody James, Conductor
Wed. May 22, 11:30 p.m.
Music Room 112

BY SKYLAR LENOX — STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER



STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER

Illiana visits Dr. Pean in the Valley College Health Center for some medical advice.

Health Center Provides Aid

BY ANDREA ZOLLMAN
STAR REPORTER

A white arrow and the words "Los Angeles Valley College Student Health Center" on a green sign posted on the west wall of the North Gym point the way. Another sign at the gym's main entrance, directs students inside to the health center, which is tucked away into a small office and a few examination rooms off the North Gym lobby.

Opened since 1993, the Student Health Center was founded, says Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice-president of student services, to provide health care to students, many of whom had no health insurance, and to provide first aid to students on campus in emergencies.

Trained in first aid and CPR, says Barbara Perlman, registered nurse and health center coordinator, they are there for anyone on campus who needs medical attention.

They provide first aid for students, for example, who trip and fall on campus or injure themselves in a physical education class, says Brandy Rodriguez, health center medical assistant.

In addition to providing first aid to students, the health center offers a host of free and low-cost medical services and tests. Free screenings include blood pressure testing, vision screening, pregnancy testing, breast exams and HIV testing. Physician visits, nurse practitioner visits and psychological counseling are available with an appointment. Low-cost tests include TB testing, cholesterol testing and other screenings. Many of the low-cost tests t must be ordered by the doctor and prices vary.

Hours of Operation at
***Mon. - Tue.* 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.**
***Wed.* 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**
***Thu. - Fri.* 9.am. -4 p.m.**
closed on weekends, college holidays and semester breaks

See 'HEALTH CENTER' on p.6

Instead of our previous advice column "Sex In the Valley," we've changed our look to...

What's Love Got to Do With It?

Dear Serena,

Please help me. I used to live at my parents house and had this cute neighbor that I really liked. We had many things in common and I felt this amazing connection even though we really didn't talk that much. Two summers ago, we started talking a lot and he would always invite me to his house but I never went. After we started talking, though, I noticed he was beginning to act like a peeping Tom. He would not only watch me through the window in my room but he would also listen to my conversations with my friends. All my friends thought it was weird because he is older than me. One night, however, we did end up hanging out at his house with a bunch of other people. That's when I got the feeling he was really into me. He started teasing me and showing me strange pictures that I guess reminded him of me. Plus, he told me that he really cared about me. Then, stupid me ruined the moment when I accidentally broke two of his glasses that his mother, who passed away, had given to him, I also gave him a letter explaining how I admired him. Then he freaked out and said that it wouldn't be a good idea if I came over any longer and that he needed space. Soon after that, I met my current boyfriend, and we recently moved in together. The problem is that my neighbor still continues to check me out and he gives me the impression that he wants more than just a friendship. So on his birthday I called him up wanting to ask if he still thought of me. He told me that he just didn't know how to respond to my phone calls. I mean, he's always checking me out, and yet he makes me feel like I'm the one whose bothering him. Please help me figure this guy out.

"I noticed he was beginning to act like a 'peeping Tom.' He would not only watch me through the window, but he would also listen to my conversations with my friends."

Peeping Tom Meets Girl Next Door

It seems to me that you are just reading too much into this guy. Let's be honest, you were totally into him before you got with your current boyfriend and most likely, you are curious about if he's still interested in you. The problem that many women have is that they read any message that a man might send their way. If a guy complements, them they assume the guy must have a thing for them. And in your case, the guy most likely did like you a lot, but when you got with your boyfriend, he let it go. The fact that he isn't responding the way you want him to when you call doesn't mean anything other than you are involved in relationship and he's not trying to get in between that. And as far as calling him a peeping Tom, it seems as if you liked the attention. Remember, a man will go as far as a woman lets him. What you need to do is appreciate the man you've got right now and leave this other guy alone.

Calling all love-sick fools: do you have any problems with that special someone? Ask Serena! Go to BJ114 or e-mail us at STAReditorsLAVC@hotmail.com.

THIS COLUMN SHOULD BE READ FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY.

BY JAMIE DE LEON

What is there we can say about "The New Guy," in which a newbie high school senior learns that the only way to get noticed in high school is to spend time in a penitentiary first, learned how to survive high school from prison inmates, learns to appreciate, we assume (the lubricating qualities of) a jar of mayonnaise, and learns how to make faces that give him the upper edge in a competition of, uh, making faces.

We're too old for this. We're too old for this. We're too old for this.

What's a loser to do when he's loaded with an unwieldy name formerly used by a famous jazz player and can't even make it to the lower rungs of any kind of high school social caste? Suicide is an option, of course, but we critics have to sit through things that are incomprehensible to those whose ages don't end with the word "teen," 'cuz it's the job. Except for the cheerleaders. There are a lot of hot looking cheerleaders. Enough to make guys do their "gee, you sound like Homer Simpson when he drools" impersonation. OK, half a page more to fill…

When he was little, Dizzy Gillespie dreamed of being black and funky. If you're brain is screaming "Dizzy Gillespie was black! This kid is white!" you're too old for this flick. The joke that goes along with the first sentence of this paragraph has almost nothing to do with the rest of this movie, though the limitations of the second sentence of this 'graph also apply so we could have missed something. But we doubt it.

It seems like the only way to get ahead in high school these days is to get yourself kicked out and up the ladder, so to speak, to another school. It worked for prison inmate Luther (Eddie Griffin), who counsels loser Dizzy Gillespie Harrison (DJ Qualls) to get busted out of Rocky Creek High, change his name to "Gil Harris" and reinvent himself at a new institution, East Highland High. Sure, jocks at East Highland, like lifer-in-training Connor (Ross Patterson), still hate the geek but there's something incredibly attractive and male -- emphasis on male -- about Gil that makes campus slut Courtney (Sunny Mabrey) offer all sorts of extracurricular activities.

We never said anything about "Gil" gaining any more intelligence in the shuffle from one school to another, folks. He finds his fame inspiring the football team to its first victory in 11,000 years and a ready to explode rivalry when Connor's girlfriend Danielle (Eliza Dushku) decides that blondes may be more fun than bullies.

Still half a page to go. There's always half a page to go. It's a glitch in the mathematics.

Lyle Lovett is the idiot father. Illeana Douglas is the guidance counselor who believes that a male erection is an early sign of Tourette's Syndrome. Gene Simmons, in a role that has nothing to do with his real job as leader of the band Kiss, preaches abstinence. OK, maybe the subtle jokes work a little bit but we've been through all this teen crap year after year after year and it all looks pretty much the same. When we find something that makes us piss our pants, we'll let you know. No such problem occurred with "The New Guy." Add additional cameos by musicians Henry Rollins and Tommy Lee, skateboard legend Tony Hawk, Saturday Night Live's Horatio Sanz, the most popular man in Germany and there's still not enough to make us kick this over the rental level.

Maybe we never should've stopped smoking dope.

IN SHORT: strictly for teens. [Rated PG-13 for sexual content, language, crude humor and mild drug references.]

FIRST PERSON: KATHY ARELLANO

In the last part of our three-part series, Kathy Arellano reveals her continuing struggle as a grandparent rasing her grandson as a parent.

Someone Finally Listened

The church I belong to became involved in an interfaith program called "ACAC," Alliance for the Care of Abused Children. This program links helping organizations, such as churches, the Rotary Club, and others with DCFS caseworkers, to fill in some of the gaps that are not addressed by the County.

Our church "adopted" a caseworker and helped her with the children in her caseload who live in "group homes." Many of these children do not have any family to do little things for them, such as send Valentines, Halloween trick-or-treat bags or Christmas gifts. I became the liaison for my church and attended monthly meetings at the local DCFS office, where volunteers and caseworkers discussed needs and got to know each other better. I volunteered for this duty because I felt that, even if I could not help my grandson very much, maybe I could be of some help to other children that needed some kindness.

STAR PHOTO/NAME

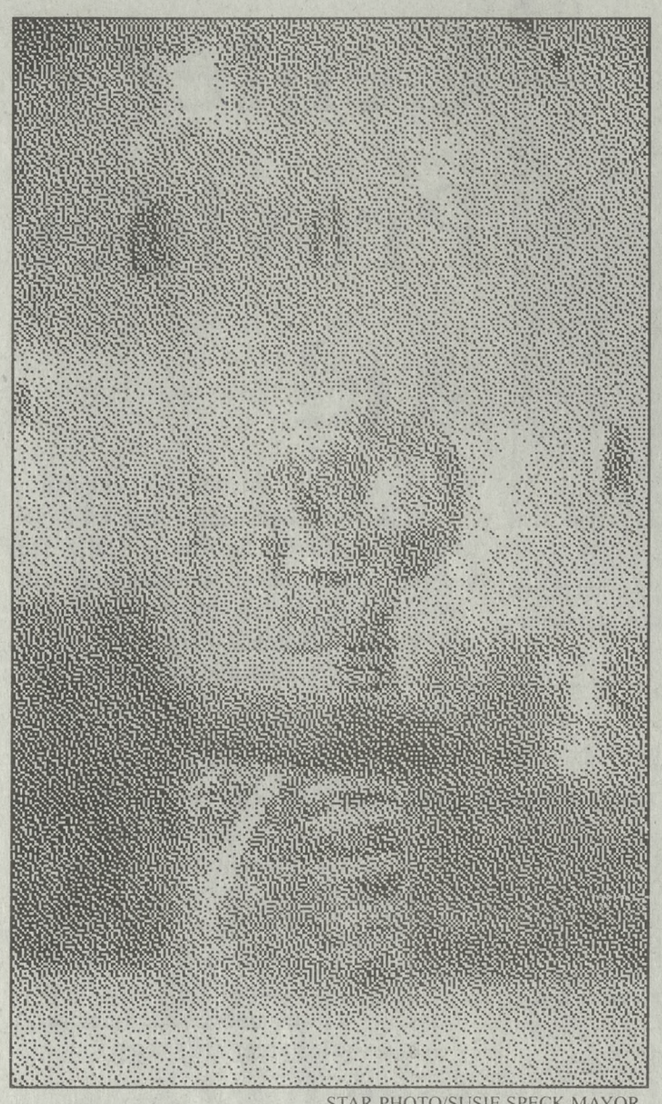
I mentioned sketchy details of my grandson's situation to a friendly caseworker after a meeting. She said that it sounded like a "borderline" case to her, and the Regional Director had recently given a training session on just such cases. She suggested that I write or call this person and explain my grandson's situation.

I wrote a three-page letter, detailing the terrible things that this little boy had to endure at the hands of his mother. I hand-delivered it and a few days later I got a response! DCFS assigned an investigator; she interviewed my husband and I, our grown son and daughter-in-law, and finally, she questioned Vincent, who happened to be spending the night with us. Based on the information she gathered, she finally had cause to open a case. Vincent had revealed damaging information about his mother's drug use and lifestyle.

Safe at Last

I will never forget the day 9-year-old Vincent was removed from his mother's care. He had an hour-long private interview with a DCFS special investigator at our home that morning, after which he appeared drained. I could tell he had been crying a lot because of his red eyes and blotchy face. The investigator took me aside and said that and then went to my classes. I arrived home shortly after my husband did and found him talking to a man in a suit. Very quickly, I discovered

See 'ARELLANO' on p. 6



STAR PHOTO/SUSIE SPECK MAYOR

LAVC's oldest student enjoys a humorous moment in class. (As seen through the life science building).

Kicking it in Class

BY ALEX DASH
STAR REPORTER

No notebook and pencils here; no chalkboard or chairs either. The students run around barefoot in loose-fitting uniforms, attempting to choke or pin each other in strange, uncomfortable looking grasps. The teacher does most of his lecturing through a megaphone and wears similar attire.

A class for maniacs?

No. Welcome to judo, Japanese for "Gentle Way." In this unique, one-unit course at Valley College, you can get in shape, learn to defend yourself and have fun too. In a single semester, one can learn how to pin, choke or throw someone much greater in size. By simply applying a little technique and strength, even the smallest can triumph a larger foe.

"I've seen a 100 pound woman throw a 200 pound man," said instructor Gary Honjio, who has been teaching the class at Valley for more than 20 years.

The class is not for everyone, however. About 50 percent of the class's male population drops the class during the semester, while only 30 percent of the females drop.

"Girls last longer; guys get humbled. They don't have as much pride as guys do," said Eddie Berttalett, a student in his fourth semester of judo.

The class is basic. It meets twice a week for an hour and a half and begins with stretching, stances, calisthenics and regular loose clothing. After the third week students will don their Gihs, the customary loose robes and pants, tied with a belt at the waist. Then holds, chokes, pins, and throws will be learned.

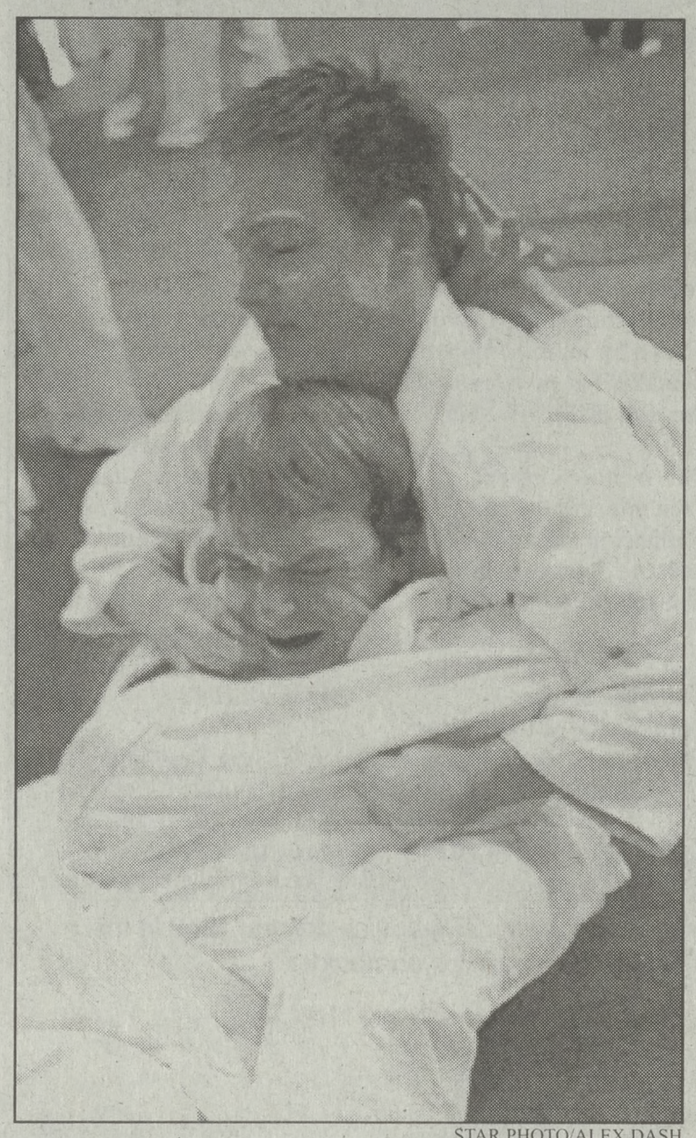
Unlike many other martial arts, full power and technique are applied during thepractice, whereas in other disciplines participants are restricted for safety reasons.

"Judo is a defensive art, not an offensive one," Honjio said. "The idea is to avoid conflict, not engage in it." That mindset carries over to his stance on homework.

"Do not try this at home," said Honjio to his students. All that he asks is they stretch.

For the final, the students will demonstrate five of the 15 different pins they have learned and then participate in a tournament called a Shiai. The matches are divided by sex and weight to ensure fairness. The grades are based primarily on participation of the students, not just winning or losing.

Judo will be offered next semester on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the North Gym.



STAR PHOTO/ALEX DASH

Third semester Judo student Sean Schwartz locks up Timothy Dodge in Valley's gymnastics center.

'Kathy Arellano' *continued from page 3*

that this was a DCFS Emergency intake caseworker assigned to Vincent's case for the first 30 days. He came to ask if we would be willing to take care of Vincent for six months. My husband and I both went to get Vincent at summer camp, and when we got home, we sat him down, as gently as we could, and told him what happened. He cried for a while.

The Struggle Begins

Our daughter was furious. She called and said that we were not her family anymore and that she hated us. She threatened to come, get Vincent and take him where we would never be able to find him. Vincent's caseworker assured us that our daughter could not legally take Vincent anywhere. In fact, she was not allowed any visitation at all until the caseworker thought she had a better attitude. When visitations finally were allowed, they were at our home, with one or both of us present the whole time.

We were very concerned with Vincent's physical condition. He came to us with a severe case of athlete's foot, which covered both of his feet. There were deep, raw fissures under and between every toe. He was very embarrassed about it and did not want me to see it. I asked him if his mom had been putting any medication on it. He said, "She told me to [urinate] on it." I was horrified at the idea. I knew he would have to see a doctor, but had no idea who his doctor was. In the process of tracking down this information, I discovered that he had not seen a doctor for almost two years, even though he had been diagnosed with asthma. I also discovered that he was nearly two years behind in his childhood immunizations. Once he was able to see a doctor and obtain some medication for his feet, it took nearly four months for the condition to clear up.

He was also having behavior problems in school and anger problems at home. My husband and I had to work very patiently with him every day, just to help him focus on doing his homework. I discussed this with the school counselor, who agreed to test him. It became clear that his problems were the result of ADHD (Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder), probably caused before he was born by his mother's drug abuse. He started on medication for ADHD, and it helped him to level out.

"Our daughter was furious. She called and said that she hated us."

In the meantime, our daughter was given several things to comply with, such as abstaining from drugs, attending 12-step meetings, getting counseling, and attending a parenting class. She had to submit to random drug testing via a urine specimen. The caseworker said that we would all go to court six months from the date that the case first opened. We felt certain that our daughter would realize what a mistake she had made and comply. We were expecting Vincent to go back with her right after Christmas. We were wrong.

The Court Appearance

Neither my husband nor I have ever had to appear in court for any reason. When our daughter tested positive for drugs three consecutive times, the caseworker informed us that we would have to appear. Vincent was very nervous about it, and very disappointed that he was not able to go home with his mother.

We arrived at the Ed Edelman's Children's Court in Whittier at 7:30 a.m. We went to a second-floor waiting area with lots of kid-sized tables and chairs and whimsical metal sculptures gracing the hallways. The room would have been oppressive had it not been for the banks of picture windows on on every wall, which let the beautiful morning sun in. We were prepared for at least a four-hour to six-hour wait. During the waiting period, Vincent's lawyer came out, introduced herself to all of us, and spoke privately with Vincent. She asked him where he would like to live right now and he answered that he liked it at our house. She explained the proceedings to us. We waited for our call and then filed into the courtroom. It looked very plain and somewhat industrial. Most of the judge's questions were directed at our daughter. A formal case was officially opened and Vincent was placed in our for an additional amount of time. Our daughter was again instructed to comply.

Retirement Plans

We have worried about Vincent's safety for years and are thankful that he is out of that dangerous situation. We have chosen to assume responsibility for him but it is a very difficult task, and it has taken a toll on our emotional well-being.

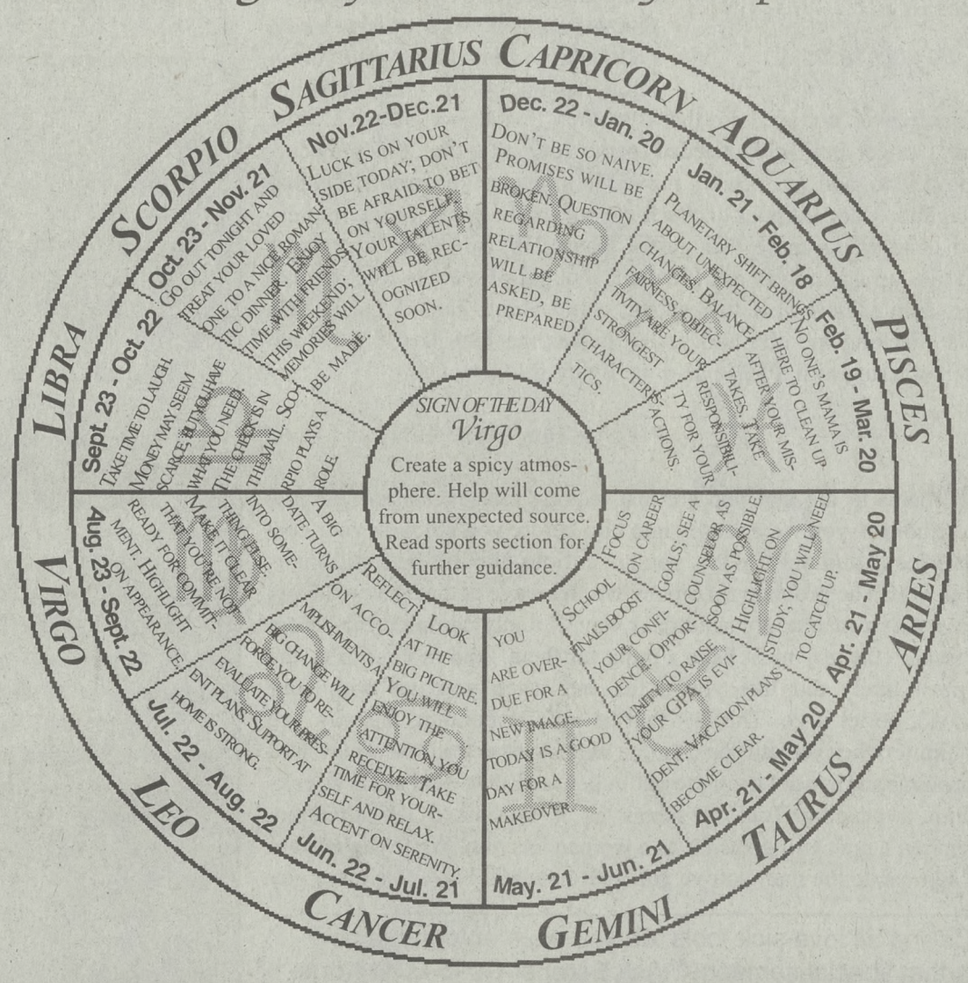
My husband and I were planning to retire in five years and do a lot of traveling in our trailer. We had gotten very used to having our freedom, our privacy and our "mature couple" status. I was just embarking on a career change and was attending college full time, while my husband continued working at his job of 28 years. We finally felt free of the parental responsibilities that we had taken care of early in our marriage. Everything was falling into place for us, and we were anxious to step into the next phase of our lives.

Shortly after Vincent was placed with us, I heard about a support group specifically designed for people like us. I went to a meeting and discovered that my husband and I are not alone. We attend a regular weekly meeting of "GAP" (Grandparents as Parents) and hear stories from each of the grandparents. Even though the stories are unique to each person, many common threads tie them all together. An abiding love and concern for our grandchildren and a strong sense of social responsibility unite us. We all share deep emotional scars stemming from the destructive actions of our dysfunctional adult children and profound puzzlement at the ability of our children to abandon their children to us.

Every grandparent suffers the wrath of his or her adult children's anger and hostility. Every grandparent has had to put his or her goals aside to care for those needy grandchildren. All of us have to deal with the daily frustrations of raising a "wounded" child whose allegiance to their dysfunctional parent is alive and intact, despite what the parent has put them through.

My husband and I are very thankful that we have the resources and the energy to help our grandson, and we are very glad to have the support of the grandparents and wonderful facilitator of GAP. I view my time with Vincent as a great gift. After all, many grandparents' lives and early in the lives of their grandchildren. I have an opportunity to have a deep, close relationship with Vincent, despite the circumstances. I intend to cherish every moment of this time with him.

Your astrological forecast told by....Sepuca


SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21
LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE TODAY; DON'T BE AFRAID TO BET ON YOURSELF. YOUR TALENTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED SOON.
CAPRICORN
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
DON'T BE SO NAIVE. PROMISES WILL BE BROKEN. QUESTION REGARDING RELATIONSHIP WILL BE ASKED, BE PREPARED
AQUARIUS
Jan. 21 - Feb. 18
PLANETARY SHIFT BRINGS ABOUT UNEXPECTED CHANGES. BALANCE FAIRNESS, OBJECTIVITY. TAME YOUR STRONGEST CHARACTERISTICS.
PISCES
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
NO ONE'S MAMA IS HERE TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR MISTAKES. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
ARIES
Mar. 21 - May 20
FOCUS ON CAREER GOALS; SEE A COUNSELOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HIGHLIGHT ON STUDY; YOU WILL NEED TO CATCH UP.
TAURUS
Apr. 21 - May 20
SCHOOL FINALS BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE. OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE YOUR GPA IS EVIDENT. VACATION PLANS BECOME CLEAR.
GEMINI
May. 21 - Jun. 21
YOU ARE OVERDUE FOR A NEW IMAGE. TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR A MAKEOVER
CANCER
Jun. 22 - Jul. 21
LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE. YOU WILL ENJOY THE ATTENTION YOU RECEIVE. TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF AND RELAX. ACCENT ON SERENITY.
LEO
Jul. 22 - Aug. 22
REFLECT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS. A BIG CHANGE WILL FORCE YOU TO REEVALUATE YOUR PRESENT PLANS. SUPPORT AT HOME IS STRONG.
VIRGO
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
A BIG DATE TURNS INTO SOMETHING ELSE. MAKE IT CLEAR THAT YOU'RE NOT READY FOR COMMITMENT. HIGHLIGHT ON APPEARANCE.
LIBRA
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
TAKE TIME TO LAUGH. MONEY MAY SEEM SCARCE, BUT YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED. THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL. SOON.
SCORPIO
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
GO OUT TONIGHT AND TREAT YOUR LOVED ONE TO A NICE ROMANTIC DINNER. ENJOY TIME WITH FRIENDS THIS WEEKEND; MEMORIES WILL BE MADE.
SIGN OF THE DAY
Virgo
Create a spicy atmosphere. Help will come from unexpected source. Read sports section for further guidance.

The astrological forecast should be read for entertainment puposes only.

'Parking' *continued from page 1*

really spend hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on parking lot repairs?

"You have no idea," said Jacobsmeyer. "A 30 square foot area could cost $10,000 to repair. Anything that deals with the parking lots is funded by money from the (Program 145) account." This includes all landscaping, walkways, sprinkler systems, drainage systems, lighting, parking meters and the school's own street sweepers--all of which are extremely costly to repair.

"It's very expensive and the money doesn't go very far," said Facilities Manager David Ogne. "It's not a budget that gets the kind of money it deserves." Ogne added that pedestrian traffic and drainage problems are a major concern. "Not too many vehicles fall into potholes and hurt themselves," said Ogne. "These problems need immediate attention." Ogne also says that landscape maintenance is very expensive. Trees and shrubs that aren't cared for can cause cracks and root damage in sidewalks and asphalt, and a sprinkler system that isn't maintained can worsen those situations as well as causing expensive drainage problems.

So, as you walk from the parking lot to your next class, stop for a minute and inhale the sweet scent of the neatly trimmed oleander. Your ticket probably paid for it.

'Renovation' *continued from page 1*

stantial development begins. The North Gym will also undergo major renovations in this manner.

The elevator in the campus center will also be modernized after a ten-week "procurement process." Before the elevator is taken out of commission, which will be for a three-week period of time, large banners will be posted as a warning of the imminent inconvenience as well as e-mails and information on the college website. Parker promises that the upgraded elevator will be more aesthetically pleasing, easier for the use of disabled students, and will function more safely. Perhaps the primary concern of Parker and his team though, is making all campus restrooms fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Information regarding URS operations are available through the Valley website, with project updates for each new building and all existing buildings that are scheduled for revamping. Meeting minutes and schedules will also be posted and the next town hall meeting will be in the fireside room on May 30 at 2 p.m.

Additionally, the project has now chosen a master architect team that will complete the plan and establish design guidelines for the campus. The master architect will also develop scope for refurbishing and/or modernizing the existing buildings.

A major step has been made in hiring Arturo Fribourg of tBP Architects as the master architect. "We want to meet your needs," he said to the assembled faculty members. "If we can't meet them due to budgetary reasons, we'll tell you."

"This is a very inclusive process," said Parker. "We want the community to see our progress on the master plan at 30 percent, 60 percent, and at 90 percent, and everyone will have a chance to share their thoughts and concerns every step of the way."

'Audit' *continued from page 1*

brought up," Jacobsmeyer said. "I just need to eliminate the idea that there may be a problem." Jacobsmeyer said that although audits are usually performed at the end of a contract, school officials will begin random sampling of citations to ensure that they have been processed in a manner compliant with records in the campus police office.

"It's a typical, simple audit," Jacobsmeyer said. "They give us information and reports, and we try to match the money with that information."

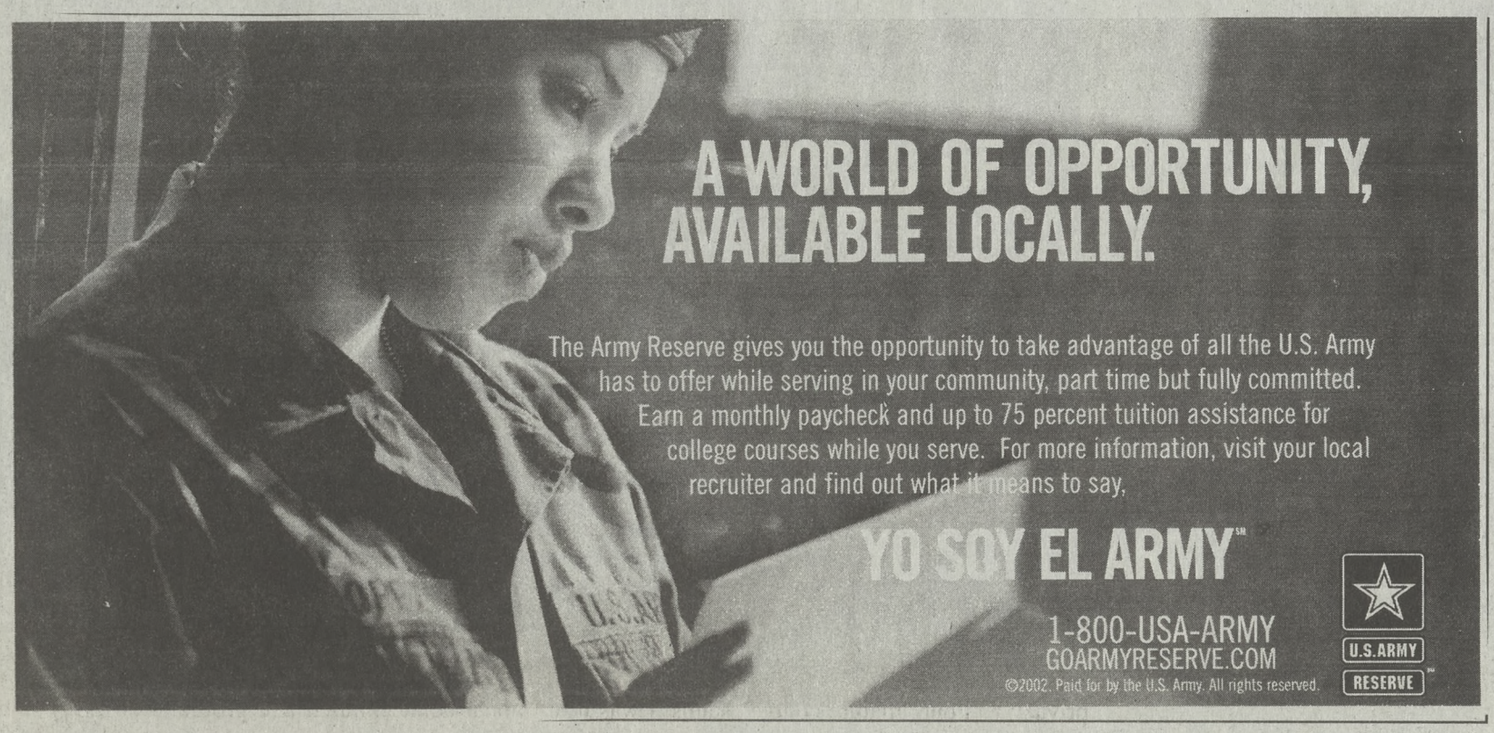
Major portions of the school's Program 145 account, which funds repairs and landscaping for the parking lots and pays student cadet salaries, come from parking citation money processed through Phoenix Group. Jacobsmeyer said that although no information has yet been presented to indicate a problem, he still wants to make sure the tickets issued by campus police are in Phoenix Group reports.

Since all citations are processed through the Campus Police, information must first be compiled in that office before being sent to Administrators for review.

"So far, everything matches up on our end," said Deputy Randy Tuinstra "We just need to make sure their end matches up."

After all records have been reviewed, Jacobsmeyer says that Phoenix Group will be confronted if anything appears inconsistent.

"We just want to make sure the system is working," Jacobsmeyer said. "We look for solutions, not somewhere to point the blame."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'Sacramento' continued from page 1

"Gov. Davis really surprised a lot of his supporters," said Fransesca Pagnotta, ASU president. "He's supposed to be a democrat supporting education, and instead, he's lobbying against it."

Hundreds of students from campuses throughout California attended the rally to support such causes as matriculation, faculty and staff development and technology funding. In addition, the day-long rally was attended by Sen. Richard Alarcon, who until April 30 was unaware of the changes to be made to Cal WORKS.

According to Charla Hearn, Black Student Union president and a current recipient of Cal WORKS, students from campuses throughout the Los Angeles Community College School District are fighting for the cause.

"Our first step was to write letters, send postcards – anything to make Congress notice us," said Hearn. "After we flood these people with a bulk of letters, we have to organize ourselves in the schools so the government will have to take us seriously."

While there is involvement for support of the Cal WORKS budget, not enough students at Valley were involved, said Hearn. She said she would have liked to have seen more students in Sacramento.

"Part of the problem is that many of the students who benefit from Cal WORKS is many people are just ignorant about what's going on," Hearn said. "Many of them don't vote or are not registered to vote. If people don't vote or if they aren't aware of what could affect them, they won't fight for anything."

Kenny Alvarado, vice president of ASU, said that like other students, he went to Sacramento to help raise awareness to the people in government who had no idea what was happening.

"Once they realize what could be lost, they will better understand what needs to be done to keep Cal WORKS going," said Alvarado.

The hope among everyone who attended the rally is that a compromise can be reached. Hearn said she understands that not all the money can be raised, but in order to keep the program afloat the government will have to come to an agreement with students.

"We hope to maintain at least most of the budget," said Hearn. "But if they take 77 percent, we won't be able to have a program."

'Code' continued from page 1

something about cheating in there?" Additionally, in a classroom survey of 25 Journalism 101 students, only five were aware of it.

The attitude of roughly 80 percent of the student body was best summed up by child development major Ruby Salgado. When asked her feelings about the student code of conduct, she smiled, tilted her head, squinted, and replied, "What is that?" Student Holly Wells said, "Maybe if we knew what the rules were, we'd be aware of them."

Among other places, the student code of conduct can be found on pages 91 and 92 of the Spring schedule, though other methods of dissemination are being discussed. "I would encourage the faculty to attach copies of the code of conduct to their syllabi," said Delahoussaye. Some instructors have already done so. More significantly, there are also plans to install television monitors at various spots on campus.

"This is a visual generation," she said. "We're going to put TV monitors in the cafeteria, admissions and records, and registration, giving students information while they wait in line." When installed, the monitors will relay information about various student services such as financial aid, upcoming events on campus, and, of course, information regarding the code of conduct.

A stack of roughly 25 purple folders sits on top of Delahoussaye's desk of pending disciplinary action for students. Though a few entail actual crimes such as narcotics violations and assault and batteries, the majority involve "dishonesty" of students. "Going into the final exams, it's important to tell students not to plagiarize papers," she said. Of the three students arrested for marijuana possession this semester, two have been suspended and the most recent is among the stack of folders.

Delahoussaye and college Sheriff Randy Tuinstra insist that the lines of communication between campus administration and campus security are "great," and that Tuinstra himself reports to Tom Jacobsmeyer, the vice president of administration, several times a week. Yet many students see things differently.

"You can't really tell if the code's being enforced until someone pulls out a gun," said student Eric Sepulveda. "But I don't think they enforce it enough."

'Health Center' continued from page 3

be ordered by the doctor and prices vary.

Perlman says about 30 to 40 students visit the health center daily, depending on the semester.

While many students visit the health center daily for first aid and health screenings, Rodriguez says that on the days the doctor is in, about half the people come to see the doctor.

Dr. Marie-Therese Pean, the health center's part-time physician, says she sees many students who don't have health insurance or time to see a doctor. Students visit Pean for a variety of reasons, including respiratory infections, gynecological exams or skin problems. She also fields general health questions.

Her advice to students is to get enough sleep, eat well, see a physician for health problems and exercise.

The health center works with Northridge Medical Center, Sherman Way Campus and refers students in need of further treatment to the medical center or to one of the low-cost county clinics in the community.

The health center also presents educational lectures throughout the year. Rodriguez, who organizes these seminars, ranging from bioterrorism to African American health issues, feature speakers who are considered experts in their respective fields.

In July, the health center will feature a lecture on dating and relationships, presented by Karen Kronph, director of community relations at the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Each of the nine Los Angeles Community College campuses has a health center, campus officials say. The $11 health fee students pay at the beginning of each semester helps support the health centers at each campus. Valley's health center is opened during each semester and during the the two intersessions. It is closed on weekends, college holidays and during semester breaks.

"There's a real recognition that part of student academic success is closely related to [student] health," Perlman says. "We're here to try to support the students as best as we can."

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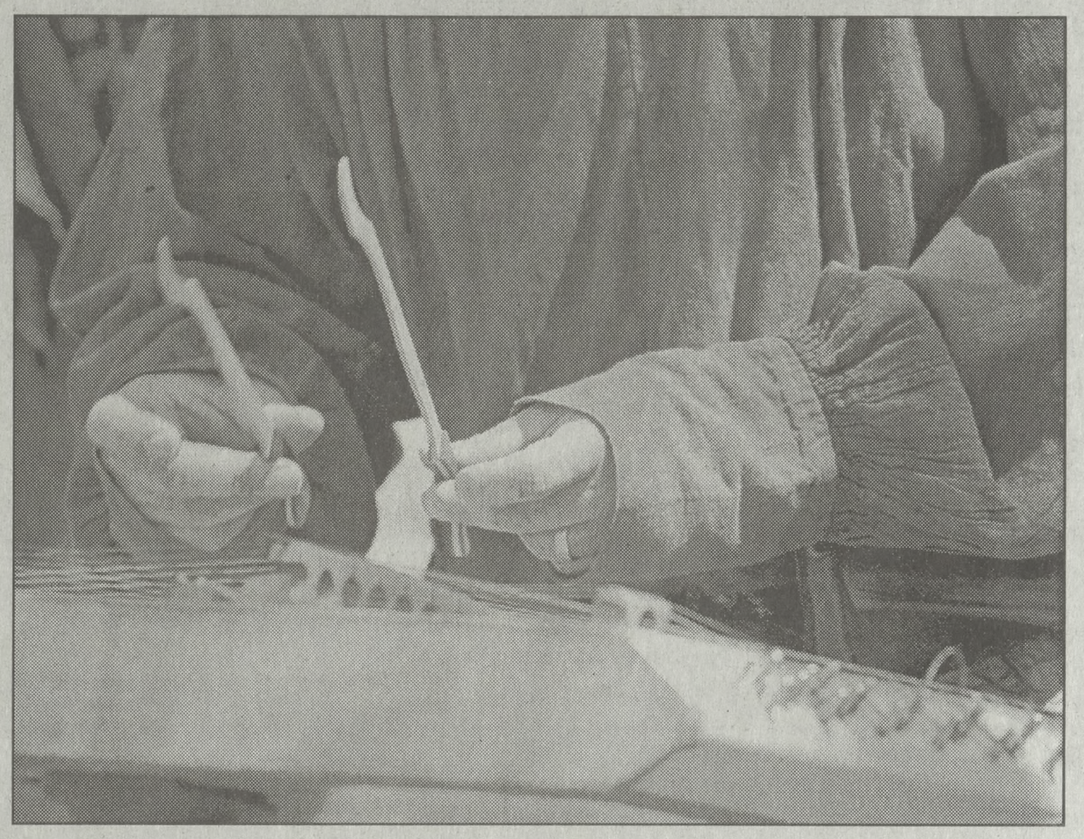
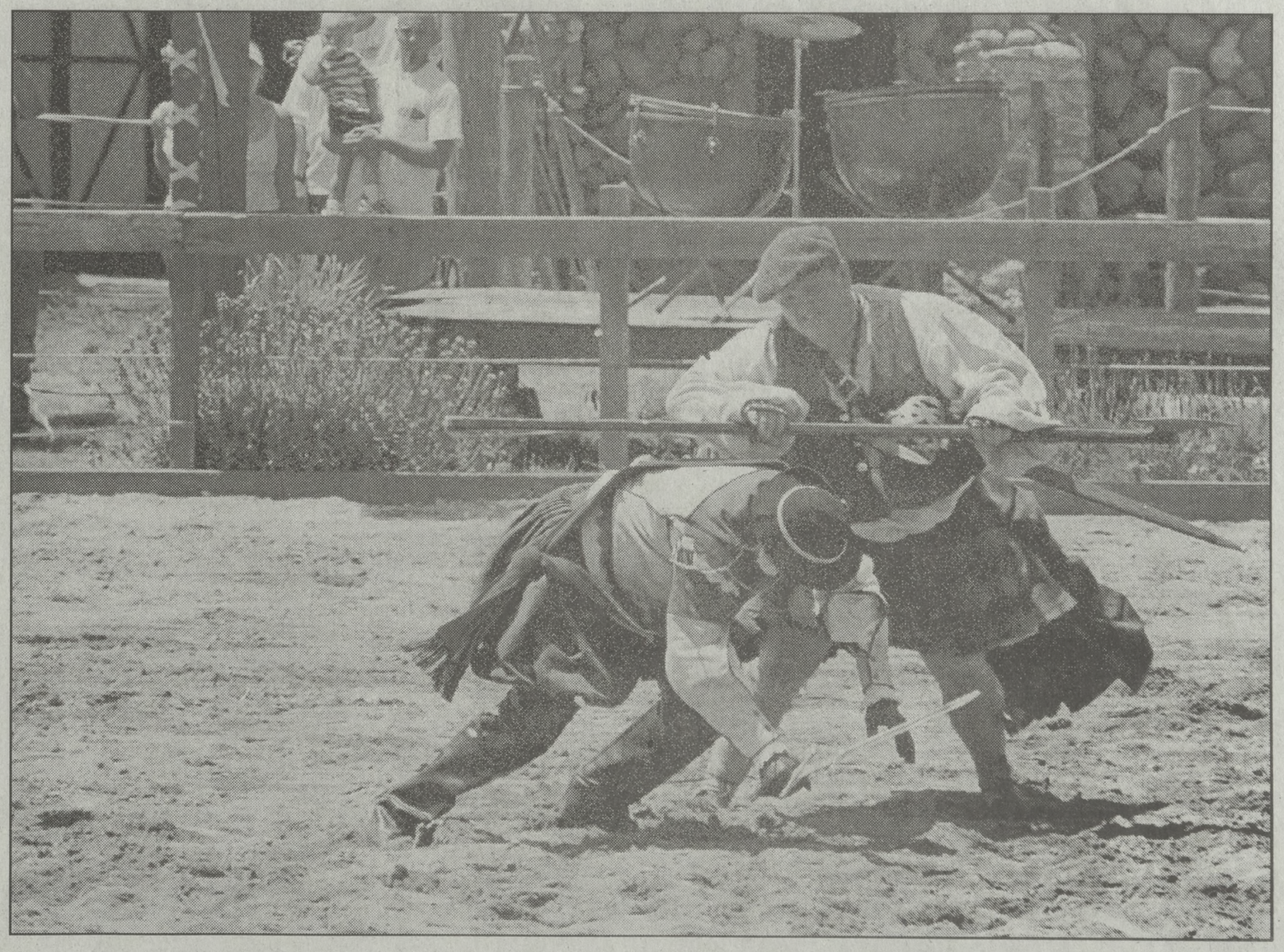


Spring is in the air and so are the sounds of jolly olde England. The Renaissance Pleasure Faire returns to Southern California for its 40th year. With 1200 performers and 250 artisans the Faire has something for everyone. You can see knights jousting or maybe a bawdy lass swinging to the beat of the music. Come be part of the revelry. For information call (909) 880-0122.

PHOTOS,TEXT, AND LAYOUT BY SALVADOR AGUILAR



Sports

Valley Baseball Team Limps Home

BY PEDRO OLIVERA
STAR REPORTER

All is quiet now at Pike Field. Gone is the sweet sound of the crack, er ping of the aluminum bat as it blasts a juiced baseball out of the yard.

The baseball season is now officially over at Valley College, though some would say that the season really ended sometime in early March.

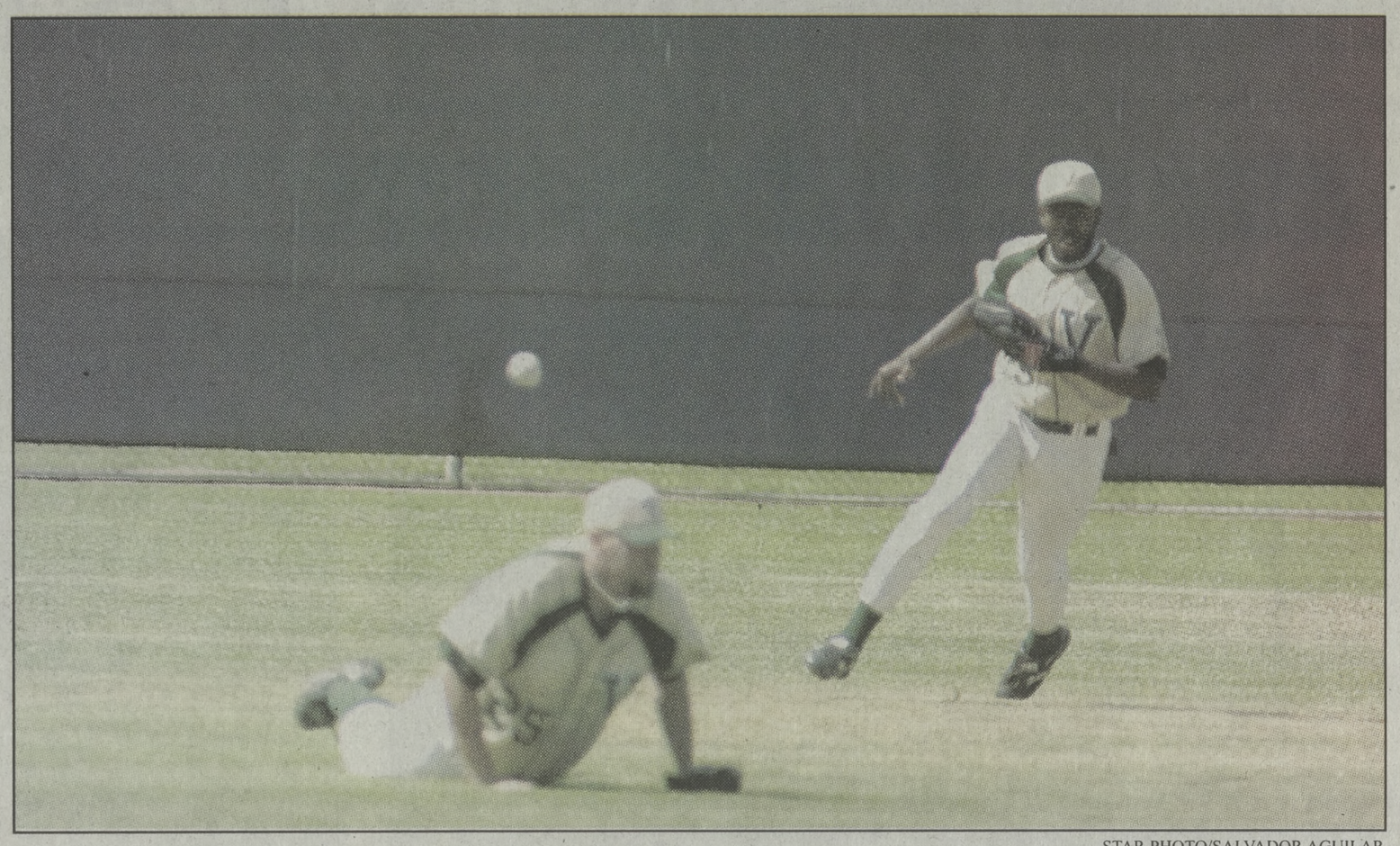
The Monarchs endured about as bad of a season as anyone could have ever imagined. They finished the year with a miserable 2-24 record in Western State Conference play and an astonishing 3-38 record overall.

"This is as bad as it gets," said coach Chris Johnson. " I can't imagine how it could've been any worse."

Valley only won a mind-boggling three games all season. They averaged one victory a month. They lost their last 13 games in a row. For the season, they were outscored 300-114.

"That's what's wrong with with all of baseball, not just our guys. Too many guys wanting to hit home runs and not enough guys doing the little things."

-Coach Chris Johnson, on today's baseball players



STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

In a season full of missed opportunities, Valley outfielder Chris Coleman narrowly missed making a diving catch.

That's an average of seven runs a game.

They were ranked dead last in hitting, with a team batting average of .259. That is 20 points lower than the next team, Ventura, who batted .279.

Their pitching and defense didn't help matters out. Valley's team ERA was an astronomical 8.95. That is more than two runs higher than the next team, Ventura. Who had an ERA of 6.57.

"Some of our pitching wasn't that bad," said Johnson. " Our pitchers became five out pitchers. That is to say that they made good enough pitches to get guys out, but the defense didn't make the play. A lot of the hits we gave up were off of plays we should have gotten guys out."

Valley had three losing streaks of ten or more losses, including two season high 13 game losing streaks that stretched from Feb. 3 to Feb. 28 and from April 4 to the last game of the season on May 4, respectively.

"I can't pinpoint one particular thing that went wrong this year," said Johnson. "It was more of everything going wrong.

"One of our biggest problems this year was we had too many ESPN players on our team. We have guys that don't worry about doing the little things that are necessary to win games. All they want to do is swing for the fences, and if they strike out, oh well.

"They see guys like Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire who strike out a lot, but because they hit huge home runs, they get paid millions of dollars.

"That's what's wrong with all of baseball, not just our guys. Too many guys wanting to hit home runs and not enough guys doing the little things."

The leadership was sorely lacking on a Monarch team loaded with sophomores. Their experience didn't help them much.

"The thing about JC baseball is that every two years you have a completely new team. We already began scouting some players for next season."

The lone bright spot for the Monarchs in an otherwise lost season was freshman infielder Abel Pulido, who finished the season with .402 batting average and was named to the All-Western State Conference South Division Second Team.

STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

Muralist Herman Gonzales stands in front of the Valley Monarchs mural which he plans to finish today.

Talkin' Sports

PEDRO OLIVERA
SPORTS EDITOR

This was the NBA's best chance to end the Lakers' run at their dynasty.

Shaquille O'Neal has suffered through every injury known to man. Kobe Bryant's shooting percentage, both from the field and uncharacteristically from the free-throw line, leaves a lot to be desired.

The officiating in this series against a very formidable San Antonio Spurs' team has been atrocious, to put it nicely.

I've never been a person to blame the outcome of the game on the referees, but this series should have ended Sunday. The Lakers should still be undefeated in the play-offs and gearing up to steamroll the Sacramento Kings in the Conference Finals.

There was the usual Hack-a-Shaq, and then the fake time-out that resulted in a three-point play but should have been a technical foul. At times it seemed as though the Lakers were playing the Spurs five vs. eight.

With seemingly everything going against them, you may be wondering, how are they still winning?

That question can be answered in one word--heart. The Lakers have it, the Spurs don't.

The Lakers have the killer instinct they so desperately yearned for in the last couple of years before coach Phil Jackson arrived to lead them to the promise land.

They haven't demolished teams in the playoffs with the same ferocity as they did one year ago, but they are ripping the hearts out of their opponent's chest in a more demoralizing manner.

They have been deceiving their competition into thinking they have a chance at winning the game. Just then the Lakers crank it into fifth gear and crush their spirits with a finishing kick reminiscent of a Kenyan long distance runner pulling away at the end of a race.

That last second charge is lead by the man who will go down as the best fourth quarter player in the history of the NBA--Kobe Bryant. With Shaq not able to go at 100 percent, it has been Bryant who put the team on his back and carried them to victory.

Bryant's play and his heroics have been nothing less than spectacular. Game in and game out, the 23-year-old phenom has dazzled us with his incredible clutch play. In one weekend, he single-handedly beat the Spurs twice, with back-to-back fourth quarter finishes that both rivaled and resembled that guy who wore number 23 in Chicago.

Bryant continues to elevate his play with every playoff game he plays. On the five- year anniversary of his three air-ball performance at Utah, a game that would have destroyed the confidence of any mere mortal, Bryant went out and scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, including the game winning put-back with five seconds remaining on the clock.

Using his flair for the dramatics, Bryant dribbled the ball off of Bruce Bowen's foot, allowing Derek Fisher to pick it up and take the potential game winning shot.

Bryant then decided it was time to shine. He crashed the boards as if he knew exactly where the ball was going to bounce. He soared through the air for what seemed to be an eternity, while the rest of the players appeared nailed to the floor. He hit the floor and like a pogo, stick went straight back up and effortlessly scored on the Spurs' two seven footers.

For his first couple of seasons Bryant was considered O'Neal's sidekick. He played Robin to his Batman. Although it took some getting used to, he deferred to the big fella for the good of the team.

Make no mistake about it, if the Lakers are to continue their reign on the NBA, the ball has to go through Shaq. As he puts it, " I am the baddest big man ever."

It is safe to say that Bryant has graduated from sidekick to full blown super hero. He is no longer a man there to lend a helping hand but rather he is now a Super Friend there to lead the charge against evil villains